



## ***EPA completes Phase 1 demolition: begins Phase 2 demolition and soil/sediment removal***

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

**Rogers Fibre Mill Site: Bar Mills, Maine**

### ***Overview***

The Rogers Fibre Mill Site is located in a residential neighborhood on Depot Street in Bar Mills, Maine. Approximately 57 homes and an elementary school are located within a quarter-mile of the site.

EPA recently demolished the 100-year-old, 1 to 3 story dilapidated building on the site, which was used by the Rogers Fibre Co. to manufacture fiberboard materials from 1917 to 1980. This company merged with Colonial Board Company (CBC) in 1967 and was known from that point on as CBC's Rogers Fibre Division.

A sluiceway flowed beneath a portion of the building that extends over the Saco River. Prior to EPA's demolition work, portions of the mill had collapsed, releasing debris into the river.

During an investigation of the site in September 1997, EPA

discovered materials with concentrations of asbestos as high as 95%, and drums and other containers containing elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These findings prompted EPA to initiate a cleanup due to the significant human health and environmental risks posed by the site; especially threats posed to the local drinking water supplies and sensitive river ecosystem.

### ***Phase 1 Completion: Down Goes the Mill!***

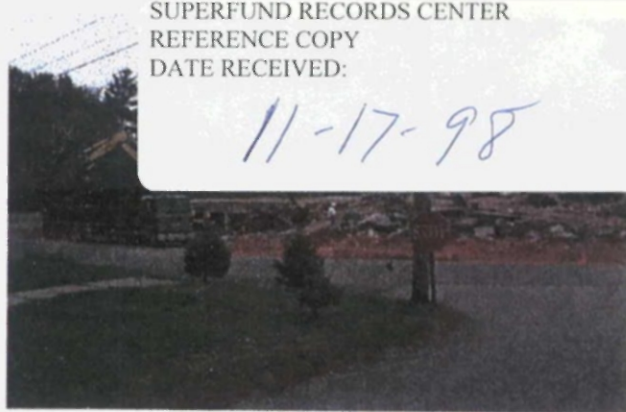
Over the course of the last 2 months, EPA has demolished all four buildings that made up the complex, leaving only the foundation of the main mill for further evaluation. At EPA's request, Central Maine Power (CMP) hired an independent consultant to conduct an inspection and make recommendations as to where the concrete foundation could be cut without structurally harming the mill dam. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) also inspected the mill dam, which is connected to CMP's abutting dam. FERC concurred that a portion of the foundation could be removed without risking structural harm to the dam.

During Phase 1, EPA disposed of asbestos-containing materials and placed 55-gallon drums,

**October/November 1998**

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*A view of the demolished mill complex from Towle Road.*

small containers, and process tanks in a central location onsite for further sampling and future disposal.

### ***Specifically, EPA:***

- ✓ removed approximately 7, 55-gallon drums containing heavy metals, solvents, and other liquids and solids from the mill complex
- ✓ removed approximately 47 tons of asbestos-containing debris and/or pulverized asbestos
- ✓ demolished the smokestack and water tower
- ✓ collected samples of heavily stained soils identified on an island that is used to support part of the mill complex. The sampling results indicated elevated levels of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). PAHs are hazardous substances, some of which have been determined to increase the risk of cancer in humans.
- ✓ EPA shipped asbestos-containing materials from the site to Turnkey Landfill in New Hampshire - a hazardous materials disposal facility.



*An excavator operator skillfully removes debris from the foundation.*



## ***EPA begins soil/sediment removal and Phase 2 demolition***

Recently, EPA OSC Janis Tsang requested and received approval for approximately \$1 million in additional funds to address the remaining contamination on the site.

EPA was prompted to request the additional funds after discovering more asbestos

The only remaining intact portion of the complex is the main mill foundation. EPA will demolish and dispose of the non-dam mill foundation where EPA has detected heavy metal and PAH-contaminated concrete surfaces. These surfaces include floors, walls and tanks. The dam-portion of the foundation will be decontaminated only.



*Two massive tanks await further inspection and eventual disposal.*

EPA will crush non-contaminated concrete from the foundation and use it to stabilize the site and/or provide the material to local distributors for reuse.

### ***Site Restoration and Safety***

EPA will evaluate the physical hazards and conditions of the site and will take appropriate actions

to ensure that site conditions do not pose a threat to the stability of the stream bank or to neighbors and passing cars.

#### ***Safety and restoration options that EPA is currently reviewing include:***

- ✓ installation of a chain-link fence and/or hand rails around the perimeter

- ✓ installation of guard rails along the road
- ✓ implementation of erosion control measures to minimize damage to Depot Street. These measures include retaining walls and use of gravel to stabilize the river bank, and additional pipes to promote efficient drainage



*The demolished building looking from the north end.*

materials within the interior of the collapsed building and on the island. EPA also identified contaminated soils and debris, and dye-stained soils/materials onsite.

EPA began Phase 2 work during the week of November 1, 1998, and is currently sampling soils, debris, and tank contents to fully characterize the extent of contamination remaining on site. EPA will use the results of this sampling to determine the amount and area of contaminated soils/sediments to excavate. These results will also help EPA to categorize the wastes for appropriate disposal.



*The portion of the mill foundation connected to CMP's dam must remain in place, according to FERC.*

***Please contact us when you have questions or concerns!***

**U.S. EPA**

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